

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. In the office action, all pending claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218 to LaJoie (hereinafter "LaJoie"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and submit the following supporting remarks.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method of presenting an audiovisual signal to a user's audiovisual display monitor, including the steps of:

- receiving a command from the user;
- responding to the command by assigning an assignable computing device (ACD) to the user;
- establishing a communications link between the user's audiovisual display monitor and the ACD;
- presenting a menu containing a selection of video programs to the user's audiovisual display monitor with the ACD;
- selecting one of the video programs for display; and
- routing said selected video program to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

Independent claim 16 is directed to an apparatus for presenting an audiovisual signal to a user's audiovisual display monitor, and includes similar limitations.

As described in the specification, e.g., at pp. 22-23, the present invention advantageously assigns an ACD to a particular user in response to the user's command. ACD's are computing devices that are separate from a host computer, such as a Sony Playstation game machine or an IBM personal computer (see, e.g., pp. 12 and 21). After an ACD is assigned, a communications link is established between the user's audiovisual display monitor and the assigned ACD.

No such method or apparatus is disclosed in or suggested by LaJoie. LaJoie discloses a system and method for providing full service cable television with an interactive program guide (See Lajoie, Abstract). As the Examiner notes on p. 3 of the

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office action, LaJoie discloses the use of central hosts to service multiple users' requests, which is precisely the type of system described as prior art in the "Background of the Invention" of the present application, such system suffering from all the discussed associated drawbacks such as slowed performance due to heavy traffic load on a single host processing unit, etc. (See Specification, p. 2).

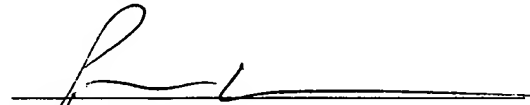
In stark contrast to the present invention, nothing in LaJoie discloses or suggests assigning an ACD to a user in response to a user command, and then establishing a communications link between the assigned ACD and the user's audiovisual display monitor, as required by independent claims 1 and 16. Therefore, LaJoie cannot anticipate claims 1 and 16 of the present invention.

Regarding the rejections of dependent claims 2-14 and 17-27, because these claims include all of the limitations disclosed in the claims on which they depend, namely claims 1 and 16, LaJoie cannot anticipate claims 2-14 and 17-27. Therefore Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-14 and 17-27 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-27 are respectfully solicited. In the event that the application is not deemed in condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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